to THE SUN

The Sun.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles return they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

## An Irrepressible Controversy.

The Forest Service is attached to the Department of Agriculture and not to the Department of the Interior, but Secretary BALLINGER, who has asked for an investigation of his Department. by Congress "to put at rest the suspins, criticisms and representations of corrupt or improper practices" directed and made against his administration, is justified in including the Forest Service in the scope of investigation if the charges of which he is the target originated in that bureau, of which the Hon. GIFFORD PINCHOT is head. As a matter of fact, Mr. L. H. GLAVIS, whose report upon the Cunningham coal land claims Alaska reflected upon Secretary BALLINGER, was one of his own sub ordinates, having been, prior to his dissal from the public service, chief of field division of the General Land Office, but the Glavis report, ugly as its insinnations were, was only an incident in he campaign to discredit Secretary BALLINGER as a conservator of the natreal resources.

President TAFT's letter in the middle September upholding the course of ecretary BALLINGER and ordering the dismissal of GLAVIS for trumping up a case that, as Mr. TAFT said, embraced only shreds of suspicion without any antial evidence to sustain his atack," did not abate the rigor of the controversy between partisans of the hief Forester and of the Secretary of the Interior. Nor did Mr. TAFT's compliments to Mr. PINCHOT upon his zeal and integrity and the President's concern for the retention of the Chief Forstor's services produce harmony. Mr. WIEKERSHAM'S favorable judgment

after a personal investigation was also a personal investigation was also mavailing. Washington still resounds with the clamor of conservators who press the charge that Secretary BAL-LINGER is an enemy of the Roosevelt policy, which Mr. PINCHOT at Salt Lake City and elsewhere recognized as his et of duty. Mr. TAFT, at Salt Lake ity also, committed himself to the evelt policy of conservation in exterms. In principle Secretary SALLINGER also advocates that policy, ut not at the price of loose construction respect the Secretary and Mr. Tarr are n absolute agreement.

It is not open to doubt that the amnition for the broadsides directed t Secretary Ballinger comes in some orm or other from the Forest Service: nce the Secretary's insistence that the reau be also investigated. "I court widest and fullest inquiry by Conress in these matters," says Mr. BALby Mr. Wesley L. Jones of the investigation asked or cannot well be denied. In justice it should cover also, as Secretary BAL-LINGER desires, any recent unofficial activities of Mr. PINCHOT'S bureau in relation to the case.

# Familiar Backs.

There was, we presume, no one familiar with the character and courage of the present "leaders" of the Republican party who suspected for a single ent that they would long stand to ther guns in a dispute with Governor HUGHES. Every one knew that all these morally defective and mentally incompetent politicians were certain to surrender the moment they felt their own ter of direct primaries was to them nothing except as it offered a chance to oppose a man they hated for reasons that were always creditable to him.

The regret in the situation has constantly been that the direct primary debate, which was and is essentially providing for the lending of Government one involving genuine questions of rifles to shooting clubs and schools, and governmental machinery, should be making a handsome grant for expenses: beclouded and bedevilled by the petty spite of the men for whom no principle Without WOODRUFF, BARNES and PARsons in the discussion, without the grotesque consequences of their party prominence ever present as an inevitable it illogical argument in the hands of one side, the whole problem might have had

All this was made impossible the mo- appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury nent these Republican bosslets seized not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$100,000,"

principle can fail to rejoice.

We do not imagine that Mr. Wood-RUFF's ridiculous and insincere "contomed spectacle of fleeing statesmen, will give much serious attention to conditions offered by opponents on the run. In Mr. Woodruff's proposals we see nothing remotely resembling actual con- ancient drain. cession to the main idea for which Governor HUGHES is fighting, and we do not expect that the Governor will be

much more deeply impressed. The conclusion we draw from Mr. WOODRUFF's remarks is that he is scared, that the Hon. WILLIAM BARNES, Jr., is scared, that the Hon. HERBERT PARSONS and a dozen other heroes are scared. Being scared they are quite prepared to concede anything that they think will save themselves. About direct nomination itself they never knew much; of its possible effect upon them they feared less. To them it was a chance to hit an enemy in the back, and being great leaders they selected it with enthusiasm and are now endeavoring to escape the consequences at the hands of those who cared as little as they themselves about direct nominations, but eagerly seized

upon a chance to punish a politician. It would be a wholly desirable thing if, now that the politicians have taken to their heels, the discussion of direct primaries could take on a calm and reasonable character; if passion and prejudice, the natural result of the presence of politicians, could be got rid of and the actual practical workings of the Hughes scheme examined, explained, judged. The chance of this must largely depend upon whether Governor HUGHES s seeking to achieve real reform or only to win a personal victory. As for the triumph incident to the present precipitate flight of the bosslets, no one will deny this has been deserved. and few will find it difficult to rejoice with the Governor. His friends are frequently hard to endure, but his ener

## The Christmas Spirit in the "Congressional Record."

We have read with unmixed satisfaction Senator DEPRW's speech of Monday last on the prosperity of the country. The Senator's remarks are chock full of the true holiday spirit of cheerfulness and good will to every laudable interes and industry. No living American is better fitted than Mr. DEPEW by temperament and information to enlarge upon the concluding paragraph of President TAFT's message and pour sunshine upon contemporary statistics of trade and finance. Nobody, we may add, derives more innocent enjoyment from the job of pouring.

How easily, for example, the serious problems arising from the present relation of Government income to Government expenditure resolve themselves into rainbow vapor under the chemistry of Senator DEPEW's method:

" Of the \$15,000,000 of additional reverue gain rom the increase of tariff duties upon liquors and hurnries shout one-half of it is lost agets in the reduction of the tariff from the present rate upon the necessaries of life. But when we add to the additional revenue upon these articles the nearly \$10,000,000 more which is to come from cco, and from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 which s to come from the corporation tax, and the still additional income which will come from prosperity and greater purchasing powers, our reveues will be in excess of expenditures and the

Heaven preserve long to the Senate and the country the chiefest of our prophets of felicity! Who will investigate too closely at the present season the topography of his route to Easy Who will analyze his shining street? figures? Who will ask him to guarantee the proceeds of the corporation tax? Who will require him to define that elastic final resource, "the still additional income which will come from prosperity and greater purchasing powers"? Who will dwell just now on the necessity of the gruelling process of creating surplus by reducing appropriations? That s all for by and by. At present Mr. DEPEW's eloquent finger points, and Easy street is there.

During a recent memorable debate the pessimist insurgents contributed to the Congressional Record (by Senator DEPEW'S own count) not less than 9,776,000 words in support of the contrary proposition. He disposes of the 9,776,000 words in less than three dozen of his own. We admire him for it, and thank him thus publicly.

"To Promote a Patriotic Spirit." Who does not regard with high approval any measure that is designed "to promote a patriotic spirit among the citizens and youth of the United States valuable persons in danger. The mat- and for the encouragement of rifle practice"? Certainly not the National Board for Promotion of Rifle Practice or the Hon. JOHN A. T. HULL of Iowa. The project allures, and its very title disarms criticism. So must Mr. HULL have thought when he introduced a bill rifles to shooting clubs and schools, and

" For the promotion of rifle practice in public schools, colleges, universities and civilian rifle was important and to whom no question clubs, including the cost of ammunition, prizes of government was even intelligible. and the necessary appliances therefor, and for the expense of indoor and outdoor competitions among the students and members attending or belonging to the same, including the necessary travelling expenses and per dlem of the persons designated by the Secretary of War to superintend such instruction and competitions, which shall be conducted by the Secretary of War, under the intelligent consideration and received supervision of the National Board for the Projection of the Projection of the Projection of Rifle Practice, there is hereby annually motion of Rifle Practice, there is hereby annually

pon direct nominations as a means of As this paragraph is read the atgratifying their private grudges and tention is particularly attracted and ersonal piques. To use it as long as conspicuously held by the phrase "inthey dared and then run from it, cring- cluding the cost of ammunition," and a ng and fawning in the presence of the great white light seems immediately overnor they had abused, this was to illuminate the love of country that the telegraph companies "extended the ways the obvious end to their cam- is behind this modest assault on the courtesy" of their wires to Seattle; the n. That they have now taken to Treasury. Promptly the mind reverts to military telegraph by cable and land heir heels, that they have again dethat magnificent plan for the purchase nonstrated how little feigned courage from private manufacturers of 1,000,rs the real cowardice of the aver- 000 rounds of ammunition to be fired in with that particular tick of the sounder

opponent of the direct nominations mine something or other, and to profit torrent of still ice; the aurora borealis the disinterested corporations that sup-ply to the public powder and ball. There arctic highlands; the wind has howled essions" will satisfy any one. We do common purpose, in these measures: a up the pass again. These things are not imagine that the Hon, CHARLES E. thought that if patriotism is run low it not winter even though they drive the HUGHES, for example, seeing familiar may be revived without injury to the Alaskan to dig up and disinfect his winbacks and witnessing the now accus- pockets of certain perturbed and fearful ter furs. They are but weather, and for lovers of this land

An annual appropriation of \$100,000 for "the cost of ammunition"; it has a familiar smell, not unlike that from an

### Austrian Slavs.

More than the mild interest which Europe has usually shown in Austrian parliamentary obstructive methods is taken in the recent deadlock by which the Slav party sought to force a reconstruction of the Cabinet. Deadlocks at Vienna have been interesting outside of the empire chiefly on account of the intensity of racial strife and the bandying of picturesque epithets by Reichsrath debaters, but a Slav victory in the face of the preponderance of Ger manic policies is a matter of no small significance.

The Slav has been the centre of political interest in Austria recently largely on account of his opposition to Count AEHRENTHAL'S scheme of aggrandizement in the Balkans. Scarcely had the rumors of war with Servia ceased when a number of poor schoolmasters, tradesmen and priests were tried at Agram on the charge of high treason. It was averred that they were in a conspiracy o form a southern Slav empire under King PETER KARAGEORGEVITCH, Of the fifty-three defendants thirty-one were found guilty and severe terms of imprisonment were imposed. This "con-spiracy" is now being threshed over in the Austrian high court through an action for libel brought by members of the Croatian Diet against the Austrian historian Dr. HEINRICH FRIEDJUNG.

The treason trial at Agram was considered as purely political, and the result bitterly inflamed the southern Slavs against those whom they considered their persecutors. They have in the libel suit still another and perhaps greater cause for resentment against Government methods, for many of the documents which Dr. FRIEDJUNG had published as proof of the anti-Austro-Hungarian "conspiracy" have been proved to be forgeries, while societies which he charged with agitation against the Austrians are found never to have existed. Besides this the uncovering of the antecedents of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian annexation has shown the Austro-Hungarian official world in most unfavorable light in its attitude toward Servia and the southern Slavs.

Another result of the Near East imbroglio was to give the Slav a realization of the strength of Pan-Slavism. The surrender of Russia to the threats of Germany and Austria was a severe blow to the northern Slavs, among whom are the most active advocates of a united Slav people. It showed them that Russia could not be depended upon and to-day the centre of Pan-Slavism is not St. Petersburg, in the greatest of Slav nations, but at Prague, while Pan-Slavism is a missionary movement directed from Bohemia to convert indifferent and apathetic Russians. These reverses and disappointments have had a tendency to unite the warring Slavic factions against a common opponent, and to this fact is due no doubt their recent parliamentary victory.

What advantage will the Slavs make Slav idea would mean the secession of Austria from Germany," is a remark that has been frequently made regarding Austrian politics. The most optimistic Czech perhaps has no idea of such an immediate violent revolution. If he had he could certainly be put right by one of his most distinguished leaders. In a debate in the Reichsrath Dr. KRAMARZ said:

"There remains nothing in the domain of for eign politics. We must bow our heads before the irresistible might of Germany and accept the alliance between Austria and Germany. dream of a rapprochement with Russia was th dream of a child."

Russia, he declared, is too enfeebled to stand as the head of the Slav race. and so far from being a protector and patron of the Austrian Slavs she herself needs their protection and patronage.

This Slav success, however, may have the effect of securing for the northern element privileges for which they have long contended, and for the southern element a more equitable treatment and a more farsighted consideration of the interest of the southern Slav beyond the Austrian borders.

This would seem a far happier solution of one phase of the race problem of the empire than the policy of conquest and coercion that has been tried. and not only might it establish the Hapsburg influence in the Near East on a more solid foundation, but it would give vigor and power to the Hapsburg position in Europe itself.

# Official Winter.

The thanks of our tropical territory (unorganized) of Alaska will ring to-day in pleasant cadence of Thlinkit, of Russian, and of that strange speech which our most travel weary novelists give us to understand is the American language as spoken in those parts.

Now that his tour of duty is about to end the Chief Signal Officer has felt the need of Alaska and has met it like a gallant soldier. In his almanac he found that December 22 is the shortest day of the year, the sun crosses the solstice and winter begins, the exact time 6:20 in the morning. "Fine," says he "Alaska ought to know that." Alaska does know it now. The naval observatory set the signal going, and we note in passing that the army leaves to the navy the uncomfortable task of turning out of its warm bed so long before breakfast; wire, and at St. Michaels by ethergram, carried to distant Nome the news that politician, is no surprise. If they competition with an equal number of the long and cruel winter had begun. actually gone, moreover, no real Government made cartridges, to deter- For weeks the Yukon has been a frozen

seems to be a common thought, a down the Chilkoot Pass and then howled

wenty years the Signal Corps has left the weather severely alone in the agricultural hands of the meteorologists to whose custody it has been committed and by whom it is doled out in daily forecasts, important if true. In flashing his winter news to Alaska yesterday General ALLEN, brightening as he takes his flight, seems to have reverted to activities once familiar but long since laid aside.

On and after January 1, 1910, any Chicago policeman found guilty of drunken-ness will "have to go." This reviving Puritanism of Cook county will inspire just disdain in the large and liberal soul of this town.

Winter is now officially open.

On the day Dr. José Madriz was inat gurated as President of Nicaragua under the auspices of Sefior ZELAYA, who had retired in his favor, a battle was fought at Rama, and it ended in defeat for the Government troops and surrender of the elayan army, the rank and file of which was probably unfamiliar with the change of administration at Managua. The stars in their courses seem to fight for the State Department. A triumph of the Govern ent forces at Rama would have made an awkward situation, for at the inauguration in Managua ex-President ZELAYA ommitted his successor, without objection, to vigorous measures in putting down the rebellion. If General ESTRADA'S victory at Rama was decisive, as de spatches report, the elimination of both MADRIZ and ZELAYA would be a logical esult. In Spanish American countries the victor in the field of revolt assumes the idency by right. The State Depart ment has not recognized Senor Madriz as President of Nicaragua, and it has ooked with favor upon the cause of General ESTRADA.

In an address in Washington Dr. WILEY, chief the bureau of chemistry, declared that the mustitution of the United States was unsuited part to the needs of the present generation. Dr. WILEY can't be amended and the

On the whole we are inclined to think that the selection of Colonel TOOT FLAKE of Charlotte to fill North Carolina's uncupied niche in the National Statuary Hall would be "a graceful tribute" to that town of poets, philologers and history repairers. Colonel Toot FLAKE was no mean poet, and he signed, if he did not write, the Mecklenburg Declaration.

### LIVERPOOL SLUMS anishing Under Municipal Plans Housing the Poor.

Daily Consular and Trade Reports About forty years ago there were i averpool 22,000 insanitary houses. een thousand have been demolished About 6,000 of these were destroyed by private enterprise to make room for busine emises, the remaining 12,000 having been leared away by the municipality.

On the site of a greater portion of the ouses which the municipality has swept away and on the other sites acquired by them for the purpose the corporation has sected 2,170 dwellings, now under the control of the city council. Within five ol some 260 courts and alleys, mostly nsanitary slums, and on these sites now stand wholesome dwellings for the occupancy of the poor. Nearly \$5,000,000 ha een spent in this work of demolition an reconstruction. Some 10,000 people, mostl the former occupants of the destroyed sections, are housed in simple comfort and

ngs. This work is in the hands of a committee of the city council known as the "housing committee," which presents recommendaions to the council ba edical officer of health and the surveyor. About 4,000 insanitary houses are yet to be dealt with. At present the corporation obtained parliamentary powers to acquire Housing of the Working Classes art of 1890. On the sites of these unhealthy areas new dwellings will be erected by the unicipality to accommodate 2,828 persons. The plans provide for 89 houses of four oms each, 188 of three rooms and 277 of wo rooms. No single room tenements will constructed. Space for four shops will contain 1,480 rooms. To complete the por-tion of the scheme just described 118 property interests must be acquired, and it has so far progressed that the latest report gives only twenty-seven yet to be secured, and arbitration. The probable cost, when all the land is purchased, will be about \$505,440, and for the buildings \$500,490 is allowed, a total of \$1,095,930. Street improvement and a recreation ground will use 5,556 yards of the total of 43,993 to be acquired.

At present the net annual charge to the ol ratenavers for the housing reforms which have been effected by the municipality, after the credit of rents is produces \$143,267. The yearly charge covering the \$1,127,500 which it is proposed to this advice to young aspirants: "Never tear expend will be equivalent to a little over cent rate, after deducting for rentals &c. This rate of five cents on \$4.86 has complished much, and provides for still urther and extensive work in the abolition the city's slums.

#### Negro Folk Song. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: An editoria

article in to-day's Sun asserts that the negro has no folk song. I think you are mistaken. The congs are rapidly being forgotten, but the negroes did have them.

I well remember how in my childhood the ne-

groes on my father's place sang in the evenings and the songs were distinctly negro in origin with a swing and rhythm that no white composes "Ah haid a lover, he sail o'h de ocean." "Go

ong Auntle, Ah know you befoh me," "Who kick Sam, woppy doodle, "De terring bone, de herring bone," "Joshua fot de These songs have never been published, to m knowledge. I have always intended to write so. They are genuine negro songs; the words are negro and the melodies are negro.

# NEW YORK, December 21. An Irenic Sign. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: This sign appears on the main business street in Water-town:

LOVE THE BARBER Will you please admit him to your hall of fame?

ROCHESTER, December 22. L. M. PARKER.

A vivid account of misdoings in Mexico opens the January number of the American Magazine. High prices are commented on by Elizabeth Hewes and Mr. Dooley, Miss Ida M. Tarbell continues her eulogy of the American woman, and there are accounts of various persons prominent at the moment, including a noted baseball player, and of plays and actors, six short stories, several peams, and the continuation of Mr. W.J. Locke's serial.

RECREATIONS OF THE GODS.

That the gods on the high Olympus arts and letters do occasionally unbend unbutton and recreate we are assured by Who's Who" (London) for 1910. Somebody-wasn't it Théophile Gautier?wore that the best reading in the world could be had in the dictionary. There are many who find solace in various encyclopædias; but we plump boldly for "Who's Who," whether in Europe or "Who's Who," whether in Europe or America. Therein the complacent victim, be he millionaire or artist, agitator or man of the cloth, answers a series of cunningly framed questions that usually bring forth self-revealing answers. Me babble in its pages as they would nev dare to babble in their sleep. Is it not instructive to read that Hall

Caine biovcles, that Marie Corelli levoted herself to literature"-mark the brase-"but has never abandoned her ove of music-piano and mandolin"? When George Moore was questioned as to his amusements he answered: "Religion." This may smack of irreverence to many, yet we wager it is near the truth. Re ligion has always played a dominant rôle in Mr. Moore's life. First he would, and then he wouldn't; he was born a he was a prodigal son that returned to the bosom of his family; then he broke away again. He may yet retire within the shadow of the cathedral.

Bernard Shaw's notion of recreation is embodied thus: "Anything except sport." Being a confessed vegetarian, this is a logical answer. Mr. Chesterton refuses to admit any other form of recreation than harrying Mr. Shaw or getting a "rise" out of Mr. Wells. Mr. Churchill is blank on the question; perhaps he knew that 1910 would furnish its quota of sport played football until 1889. His clever brother, the author of "Dodo," likes golf, We prefer to think of skating, tennis. the "authoress," in stoutly declares that her favorite form of recreation is sleeping. Would that there were more. This recalls the young American poet who avers that lunching s for him the proper thing.

Robert Hichens is given to tennis, riding, travelling; Frank Harris declares that he "finds it pleasant to write about his seniors in the art Shades of Shakesp The positivist Frederic Harrison takes kindly to gardening; Thomas Hardy to the study of architecture. Maurice Hewlett gives no clue to his playmaking; perhaps, like Max Beerbohm, he reads his own "works," and we fairly commend the practice; a practice with authors more onored in the observance than in the breach. D'Annunzio goes up in aeroplanes; Tolstoy farms; William James reads novels; Henry James dotes on metaphysics; Maeterlinck keeps bees and canoes; Pinero belongs to the Beefsteak That gentle anarch Prince Kropotkin indulges in bookbinding and carpentry; Gorky loafs at Capri; Premier Asquith golfs; so does Andrew Langwhen he isn't firing upon Anatole France with verbal bombshells. What recreation is most liked by the

Colonel? Here is the list, the longest "Ranching and game hunting on the great plains and in the Rocky Mountains; much interested in goology, especially mammalogy and field natural history generally." is material for two or three lifetimes com pressed in these frank sentences. Directly below them Senator Elihu Root gives his Washington address; naught as to his moods of relaxation.

The vanity of tenors is proverbial, but there are other professions in which a good opinion of one's capacities and peronal charms may be discovered. big red book of 1910 is the place in which to find them all.

### HOW TO THRIVE IN GRUB STREET. A Former Hack's Reminis

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: At the risk of being branded a traitor to the cause war against all editors. I must confess my of Mr. Joseph Fitzpatrick related in THE Sun. During my long apprenticeship-I don't think I have graduated yet-I have never had an idea stolen, in prose or verse by any editor. Maybe my ideas were no good enough to steal, still they were good enough to publish. I am very certain that, generally speaking, editors don't stea ieas. They may have in your correspond ent's case, but I am a great believer in isms did occur they were probably unin-I will not believe, until I am convinced by actual proof, that editors are

Your correspondent is evidently a transient novice and knows little of the profes-sion. The very idea of offering an article to a Paterson newspaper and expecting to be paid for it is comic. As far as the Brooklyn paper is concerned, he had only warned him off that ground.

Having reached that age when I ought to know whether a manuscript is good or not—though, by the way, it may be good and yet not suitable to the periodical which it is sent-its return from a score of editors does not alarm me in the least. On the contrary it rather intensifies its value in my eyes. Two weeks ago I sold a manuscript which had been going the rounds for three years, a fact which induces me to give up any manuscripts unless they are ephemeral." A new editor—and a new ditor sometimes means practically a new periodical-took ten of my manuscripts which had been declined by his predec

periodical—took ten of my manuscripts which had been declined by his predecessors. It was merely a case of individuality. Know your editors! Also know the "lines" they work on, if you wish to make money. I told an editor the other day that he had no business to have lines, as personally I didn't write for editors, but for the public. He only smiled.

As for obtaining articles free of charge, I have no words for that method when extensively practised. The other day I met an editor of a magazine in the subway, who in answer to my inquiry as to whether he needed any matter replied: "Oh, no, I can get all I want gratis from —," and he named people who were only too willing to black his shoes for the privilege of seeing their names in type. I didn't blame that editor, but I should have liked to throw him out of the window.

If your correspondent wishes to make money let him turn "hack." "Hacks" make three times the income of a man with style. I condescended to be a "hack" once and wrote an article on "bricks." The straw I got in the Astor Library, and I was paid liberally. wrote an article on "bricks." The st got in the Astor Library, and I was liberally.

liberally.

As a final piece of advice, don't foist anything new on the magazines. Try the newspapers, for they welcome novelty. New matter is like new ickes. Neither the matter nor the jokes will go. Editors of magazines abhor anything fresh. This is my everyday experience. Stick in the rut and you'll make money. If you don't you may turn out something for which you will be praised—after you're dead.

NEW YORK, December 22.

A Sage in Court. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Socrates Squier bought some bad bonds, for which he sued the man who sold them to him, as reported n 77 Mass. 11. Is he admissible to the list? B. B. B.

An Architect's Mistake Hawthorne had just finished "The the Seven Gables."
"Why not chimneys!" we saked.
Herewith he realized he had lost to make a model December residence.

THE EXTERMINATION OF THE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22,-The thresten annihilation of the Alaska seal herd and the consequent destruction of what regarded with indifference. Unless something is done quickly, the practical extinction of these animals within the next few years is little short of a certainty. By direction of Congress an official

survey was made in 1874. The herd was then reported as numbering 4,700,000. Another official survey, made in 1891, reported the number as then reduce 1,000,000. In 1900 the United States Fish ion reported a further reduction to 360,000. In 1906 there were about 180,000, and W. T. Hornaday estimates the present number at not more than 30,000. This rapid diminution of the herd has gone on in spite of the fact that across miles of sand through the hours during the last twenty years the Government has spent nearly \$5,500,000 for its protection. The Bering Sea tribu nal, which sat in Paris in 1893, established a close season and provided other regulations assumed to be reasonably effective. A law passed by Congress in December, 1897, prohibited American cit zens and vessels from pelagic sealing in Bering Sea or in the Pacific Ocean north of the 35th parallel of north latitude. The Paris decision of 1893 limited the activities of Canadian sealers, but the matter has been a cause of frequent and serious friction.

The operations of American citizens have been kept fairly well within legal limits, but the laws of this country do not equally bind the Canadians and do not at all bind the Japanese, who wer not party to the Paris treaty of 1898 and who recognize no law outside the gen-erally established three mile limit. The Japanese have been active in their operalargely to the wasteful, unscientific and even brutal methods of Japanese hunters in the open sea that the swift destruction of the herd is properly attributable. It is in the open sea that most of the evi work is done. The islands of St. Paul and St. George are now the principal breeding grounds, and on them the right of killing is held under lease from the Government by the North American Commercial Company of San Francisco The company operates under officially prescribed regulations and pays to the Government a royalty on all skins taken and shipped. The lease, made in 1890, will expire next spring.

If the preservation of the fur seal de in it and upon international treaties the seal question gives every promise of an early settlement through the greedy activities of the seal hunters.

# SHARKS.

They Will Not Attack a Living, Moving

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SEXhave upon many occasions and in many waters seen sharks of almost every kind cornered and killed without a show of re sistance, aside from flight, with knives only in the hands of natied native men, women and children, who eagerly and fearless to enter the inner barbor, where it co signalized the departure of every othe fish and the consequent loss of a meal to the natives. Even the smaller children participated with equal confidence and de light in these killings, and in no single in stance have I ever known or heard from any one worthy of belief of one being in jured beyond a scratch from collision In other open roadsteads, harbors and waters of the world I've seen women children and men of every type, nation ality and shade of color bathing and swin ming far at sea surrounded by sharks and heedless of them. I have yet to see the man eating shark, though I've sailed the

seven seas and several others since 1856 in whaler, merchantman and man-o'-war from Nova Scotia to the Bering Sea and the in the business with a fair prospect of sev-eral years more of it. At times, in the hope been exceptional and that I might be con vinced that I held an erroneous opinion of the shark, I have discussed him, his habits tastes, &c., with other seamen of even wider experience than my own. By each and every one my opinion was confirmed. All had heard the usual shark stories; not one could relate a contrary personal experience or story direct from any one entitled to credence. During a whaling voyage of my cutting in" I have with my spade wounder mmediately set upon and devoured by it

hundreds of sharks; each of which was immediately set upon and devoured by its companions. Upon two such occasions I slipped and fell overboard among them and was not molested, though I wasted no time in tempting them. This is a frequent occurrence among whalemen, yet no instance of injury has been recorded. Yet I am open to conviction, and I confess to an inherent fear of the shark, a fear out of which, aided by the imagination of the "marine" writers of fiction and occasional visitors to the sea, has arisen the blood curdling shark stories of lubbers and literature.

The most realistic and plausible shark yarn I ever heard was spun to me some years since at Stanstead Plain, Canada, by a young man who had wandered to New York city and spent a season as deckhand on one of the Rockaway Beach excursion boats. His adventures with sharks in that locality capped anything I had ever heard or dreamed of. He was the hero of the place and a most magnificent and plausible liar, a Munchausen born to bloom unseen." I envied his genius and at times almost believed him. I trust he will see this humble tribute. From my own experience, from the statements of many sailing masters, and the officers and seamen of old time American whalers, clippers and men-o'-war, the absence of any authentic record of injury and the fact that neither the offer of Herman Oelrichs nor the discussion that followed it has developed a scintilla of evidence of the existence of the man eating shark, I must declare him, as I've always believed him

Gelrichs nor the discussion that followed it has developed a scintilla of evidence of the existence of the man eating shark, I must declare him, as I've always believed him to be, a myth.

The shark that will attack a living, moving human being has in my opinion yet to be born, but a dead one is the shark's especial delight, and the deader the better, as I can testify from personal observation in many instances.

Greenport, December 22. Maintop.

### What Is Truth? TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Ar: In his lette

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Ar: If his letter in to-day's Sun "Experimenter" advises the Episcopal Church to rewrite her creed or go down to oblivion in failure. As it now stands that creed asserts a belief in God the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, in the Holy Ghost, in the holy catholic church, in the communications in the foreign and in the letter in the le on of saints, in the forgiveness of sins, in the reservection of the body, and in the life everlasting. Will "Experimenter" please say which of these beliefs is in his opinion outworn and must be re-cast in terms of the "newer truth" (whatever that may be) in order that the Episcopal Church may ave its soul alive?

Hardships of the Season TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Winter NEW YORK, December 22.

A Missouri Tragedy.

Raymondelle correspondence Houston Republican.

Last Saturday as John Holt was bowing to his
best girl his feet slipped up and he fell his full
length on the walk in front of her. "Let Each New Temple."

The Chambered Nautilus was boasting

growth.
"Shucks," we cried, "we tear down twelve story office buildings to put up thirty-two story skysorspers."

Herewith it complained to Holmes that its patent was infringed.

THE LIFE SAVERS.

WARRINGTON, Dec. 22 .- For about \$2,life saving stations at points of danger on its seacoasts and on the shores of the great lakes. Last year more than 300 vessels were warned of danger by the signals of the patrol and tower watchmen. Four hundred and fifty-nine documented vessels met with disaster, but of 6,377 persons on board these vessels only eight were lost.

The service employs about 2,000 men. all except a small percentage being surf-men. employed only nine months of the year, autumn, winter and spring, the time of greatest danger to shipping and of greatest physical hardshi men who patrol the coasts night and day. The worse the weather the greater must be their vigilance. The lonely patrol of a raging winter storm makes the beat of a city policeman seem like a stroll in a garden. For their services these men receive the equivalent of about \$700 a year, a modest increase having en given them two years ago. Out of their income they must furnish their own uniforms and storm clothes, and if married, as about 80 per cent. of them are, meintain the family from which they of the year. In the debate on the increase in pay

in March, 1908, reference was made to the members of the corps as "the hardest worked, the bravest and the most efficient men in the public service." is not an overstatement. Their duties combine the work done by sailors, policemen and firemen) and the life is arduous and dangerous. In case of death "by reason of perilous service or any wound or injury received or disease contracted in the line of duty" a two year provision is made for a dependent mother, a widow, This is not enough. The soldier and the sailor through reenlistment may look forward to their retirement pay. The same arrangement should in simple justice be made for the life saving service. As it would tend to bring good men into the corps, and also to keep good men in it., retirement pay after a specified term of service would be good business for the country as well as an act of justice.

#### AFTER ZELAYA, WHAT? Should the Nicaraguans Receive Assis tance From Us?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Nicaragua problem is important because pends, as it appears to depend, upon the in its solution we lay down general rules action of legislators who show no interest to be followed in our relations with all the republics of Central America. Having fusion as to the next step. That is because we know little or nothing of Nicaraguan politics and have yet no settled wisdom

Zelaya withdraws from the stage, but has put in his place a manikin whose movements he will direct. The National Assembly, which is merely a packed assembly of Zelaya's agents, is working in bar mony with him. The main motives are to preserve the monopolies and privileges which he and they enjoy and to avert the retribution "hich is sure to follow Estrada's success. The game employs at most 200 men, playing with an abject and conscript soldiery. The people play no part, except as more or less unwilling soldiers. Left to themselves, the close student can

see no hope of their rising in civilization. Zelaya and his group are cultivating the support of the city of Leon, that is, of the bosses of Leon, as we migh call them. The city of Leon proper has a population of more than 50,000, as against 20,000 in the riva! political camp of Granada The rivalry of these two cities, in its nature like that of the Italian cities during the Middle Ages, is the key to Nicaraguan history during more than a century

stock and Conservatives, while the Leonese being colonists, are Liberals, more-rude and more Indian. Irias and Madriz are Leoneses or Occidental Liberals. Estrada is a Managua Liberal, leading a combination of Liberals and Conservatives. Leon and Zelays with either Irias or Madriz, the first because it would profit by the dependence of the Government on it, and the two others because, backed by the relatively great city of Leon, they would be able to preserve the

Irias was Zelaya's most servile executive

officer and at the end his only Minister. Madriz, for a time a Minister, was driven into exile because he was believed to be plotting to oust his master. If my memory serves me have a part of the national apparatus of of course apparent. In exile he wrote a attacking Zelaya, and he was for a long time the most troublesome emigrado with whom Zelaya had to deal. Zelaya purchased his adhesion by an appointment to the court at Cartago and by paternal suggestions of uccession when the time would come.
C'est le premier pas qui coûte. Had the United States not declared the Monroe Doctrine some of the great Powers would have long since made Zelaya behave him-self. We cannot evade the charge that we have degraded the unfortunate Nicaraguan people and ruined the interests of foreigners and Americans, and we must now choose whether we shall in effect notify

liticians and thieves, or whether we shall set them on the way to happiness and civisay, if we abandon Central America, we shall not be obeyed. Adventurers will persist in going into the forbidden land, and as in the past the State Department will be con-stantly appealed to for relief. In that case it will be our duty to lay down the rule of equity that he who seeks equity must come with clean hands, that is to say, that every monopolist and concessionary appealing for diplomatic aid must show that his privilege is not in conflict with the laws of the country of which he compleins. Out of just regard for the simple minded and unwary we must also stop the publication of Mr.

people and other foreigners to withdraw

from Central America and abandon the native people to the hopeless feuds of their

Barrett's journal for promoting the waste of money in Spanish America. AN AMERICAN RESIDENT. NEW YORK, December 22.

Some Hymns and Their Authors. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In regard to Susan Hayes Ward's corrections in to-day's Sun of its article on "Christian Hymnology" pernit me to say: When I knew Miss Elliot she was bedridde

In the American Church Hymnal Wesley's hymn is given "Hark, the Heraid Angels Sing." I knew "Father Oakley" at Oxford. He had ceased to be "Canon Oakley," having joined the Church of Rome. Church of Rome.

Our church hymnal gives the Epiphany hymn as by Prudentius, and I have it in Latin. It was merely rendered into English by Caswall.

ANGLICAN.

San flower Social Note. From the Kansas City Star.

In Strong City a "hen party" was given in honor of a pastor, and each of a dozen guests gave him

In McClure's Magazine for January M. X.
Paoli of the French secret police begins the story
of his relations with royalty with the late Empress
of Austria; Mr. D. Soskice continues his takes

of Austria; Mr. D. Soskice continues his tales of Russian conspirators with an account of the spy Azefi; J. E. Lathrop and G. K. Turner combine to expose the land grabs in Alaska, and P. Gibbon describes the trial of Ferrer. The first part of a play by Arnold Beanett with four short stories make up the lighter part of the number.